

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 162041Z SEPT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5891

INFO AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCSO

USLO CINCLANT

COMFAIRCARIB ROOSEVELT RDS PR

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, NA, VE

SUBJECT: ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NA AIRSPACE (HALCON VISTA)

REF: THE HAGUE 4548; CARACAS 8976

1. VENEZUELAN FONMINISTRY HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT (INFORMALLY TRANSLATED) CONCERNING EXERCISE "HALCON VISTA." BEGIN QUOTE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE REPUBLIC ADVISES THE FOLLOWING: THE VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES CARRIED OUT A JOINT OPERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANEUVERS OF A ROUTINE CHARACTER DESIGNED TO EXERCISE NAVAL AND AIR UNITS.

SAID OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT AND CONCLUDED ACCORDING TO PLAN AND, AS A RESULT, IT IS CATEGORICALLY AFFIRMED THAT DURING ITS COURSE VENEZUELAN UNITS DID NOT VIOLATE THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OR AIRSPACE OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, NOR DID THEY INTERFERE
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IN THE SEA OR AIR ROUTES OF THE SAID ANTILLES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS
IN FORCE CONCERNING SEA AND AIR NAVIGATION, THE APPROPRIATE NOTICE
WAS MADE AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SAID AGREEMENTS WERE
CARRIED OUT.

THE INFORMATION DISSEMINATED WITH RESPECT TO THE SUPPOSED
ACCIDENTAL VIOLATIONS OR INTERFERENCE BY VENEZUELAN UNITS THEREFORE
LACK ANY FOUNDATION.

INFORMATION WHICH APPEARED YESTERDAY (SEPTEMBER 14) IN THE
VENEZUELAN PRESS IN FACT REVEALS THAT THE PROTEST TO VENEZUELA
WAS MADE BY HOLLAND, SINCE THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS COGNIZANCE
OVER DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS MATTERS OF THE ANTILLES (SIC)
WHICH IN ALL OTHER ASPECTS IS AN INDEPENDENT PART OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS. THE SAME INFORMATION ADDS THAT THE
OPERATIONS CONSTITUTED A DANGER TO THE SECURITY, EFFICIENCY AND
REGULARITY OF AIR TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF ARUBA, BONAIRE
AND CURACAO. END QUOTE.

2. ASKED BY THE PRESS IF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAD LODGED ANY
PROTEST ABOUT THE INCIDENT WITH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT,
FONMINISTER SCHACHT REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED
FROM ARGENTINA AND THAT HE COULD ONLY REFER THE PRESS TO THE
STATEMENT (QUOTED ABOVE) "WHICH REPRESENTS THE OFFICIAL WORD
OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT."

3. COMMENT: IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT,
DESPITE UNCOMPROMISING TONE OF ITS STATEMENT, IS NONETHELESS
EMBARRASSED OVER THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE NA GOVERNMENT BY
THE HALCON VISTA AIRCRAFT AND WILL EXERCISE BETTER CARE IN THE
FUTURE TO PREVENT ANY RECURRENCE. THIS EMBASSY WILL BE ON THE
ALERT IN FUTURE TO ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE PRIOR NOTIFICATION IS
GIVEN BY THE GOV TO VARIOUS NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENTS WHEN US
FORCES PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY EXERCISES WITH THE VENEZUELAN
ARMED FORCES.
FISHER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE HAGUE
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